

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 15, 2004

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 1, 2004

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1733

**Introduced by Assembly Members Reyes, Campbell, Correa, and
~~Levine~~ *Levine, and Matthews***

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berg, Chavez, Chu, Diaz,
Firebaugh, Frommer, Goldberg, Hancock, Laird, Leno, Lieber,
Lowenthal, Montanez, Nakano, Ridley-Thomas, and Steinberg
Steinberg, and Wesson)**

March 5, 2003

An act to amend Section 2891.1 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to telecommunications.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1733, as amended, Reyes. Telecommunications: selling or licensing lists of subscribers.

Under existing law, the Federal Communications Commission licenses and partially regulates providers of commercial mobile radio service, including providers of cellular radiotelephone service, broadband Personal Communications Services (PCS), and digital Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR) services (collectively, mobile telephony service providers). Under existing law, no state or local government may regulate the entry of, or the rates charged by, any commercial mobile radio service, but is generally not prohibited from regulating the other terms and conditions of commercial mobile radio service.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including telephone corporations. Existing law authorizes the commission to regulate telecommunications services and rates of telephone corporations, except to the extent regulation of commercial mobile radio service is preempted by federal regulation. Existing law prohibits a telephone corporation selling or licensing lists of residential subscribers, from including the telephone number of any subscriber assigned an unpublished or unlisted access number, as defined, without his or her written waiver of this protection.

This bill would prohibit a provider of mobile telephony services, as defined, selling or licensing lists of subscribers or otherwise providing the name and dialing number of a subscriber for inclusion in a directory, from including the dialing number of any subscriber without first obtaining the express consent of that subscriber. The bill would establish certain requirements for the provider's form for obtaining the subscriber's express consent.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2891.1 of the Public Utilities Code is
2 amended to read:

3 2891.1. (a) Notwithstanding Section 2891, a telephone
4 corporation selling or licensing lists of residential subscribers shall
5 not include the telephone number of any subscriber assigned an
6 unlisted or unpublished access number.

7 (b) Notwithstanding Section 2891, a provider of mobile
8 telephony services selling or licensing lists of subscribers or
9 otherwise providing the name and dialing number of a subscriber
10 for inclusion in any directory, shall not include the dialing number
11 of any subscriber without first obtaining the express consent of that
12 subscriber. The provider's form for obtaining the subscriber's
13 express consent shall meet all of the following requirements:

14 (1) It shall be a separate document that is not attached to any
15 other document.

16 (2) It shall be signed and dated by the subscriber.

17 (3) It shall be unambiguous, legible, and in a minimum
18 10-point type, and conspicuously disclose that, by signing, the



subscriber is consenting to have the subscriber's dialing number sold or licensed as part of a list of subscribers and the subscriber's dialing number may be included in a publicly available directory.

(4) *If under the subscriber's calling plan the subscriber may be billed for receiving unsolicited calls or text messaging from a telemarketer, the provider's form shall include a disclosure, which shall be unambiguous, legible, and in 10-point type at a minimum, that by consenting to have the subscriber's dialing number sold or licensed as part of a list of subscribers or be included in a publicly available directory, the subscriber may incur additional charges for receiving unsolicited calls or text messages.*

(c) A subscriber may waive all or part of the protection provided by this section through written notice to the telephone corporation.

(d) This section does not apply to the provision of telephone numbers to the following parties for the purposes indicated:

(1) To a collection agency, to the extent disclosures made by the agency are supervised by the commission, exclusively for the collection of unpaid debts.

(2) (A) To any law enforcement agency, fire protection agency, public health agency, public environmental health agency, city or county emergency services planning agency, or private for-profit agency operating under contract with, and at the direction of, one or more of these agencies, for the exclusive purpose of responding to a 911 call or communicating an imminent threat to life or property.

(B) Any information or records provided to a private for-profit agency pursuant to this subdivision shall be held in confidence by that agency and by any individual employed by or associated with that agency. This information or these records shall not be open to examination for any purpose not directly connected with the administration of the services specified in subdivision (e) of Section 2872 or this paragraph.

(3) To a lawful process issued under state or federal law.

(4) To a telephone corporation providing service between service areas for the provision to the subscriber of telephone service between service areas, or to third parties for the limited purpose of providing billing services.

(5) To the commission pursuant to its jurisdiction and control over telephone and telegraph corporations.

1 (e) Every deliberate violation of this section is grounds for a
2 civil suit by the aggrieved subscriber against the organization or
3 corporation and its employees responsible for the violation.

4 (f) For purposes of this section, “unpublished or unlisted
5 access number” means a telephone, telex, teletex, facsimile,
6 computer modem, or any other code number that is assigned to a
7 subscriber by a telephone or telegraph corporation for the receipt
8 of communications initiated by other telephone or telegraph
9 customers and that the subscriber has requested that the telephone
10 or telegraph corporation keep in confidence.

11 (g) No telephone corporation, nor any official or employee
12 thereof, shall be subject to criminal or civil liability for the release
13 of customer information as authorized by this section.

14 (h) For purposes of this section, “mobile telephony services”
15 means commercially available interconnected mobile phone
16 services that provide access to the public switched telephone
17 network (PSTN) via mobile communication devices employing
18 radio wave technology to transmit calls, including cellular
19 radiotelephone, broadband Personal Communications Services
20 (PCS), and digital Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR). “Mobile
21 telephony services” does not include mobile satellite services or
22 mobile data services used exclusively for the delivery of nonvoice
23 information to a mobile device.

